

104
H.R. 2767, TO EXTEND AU PAIR
PROGRAMS

Y 4. IN 8/16:AU 1/2

H.R. 2767, to Extend Au Pair Progra...

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

DECEMBER 14, 1995

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations

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MARKUP OF H.R. 2767, TO EXTEND AU PAIR PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1995

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN
RIGHTS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:08 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Christopher Smith (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SMITH. The subcommittee will come to order.

We are taking up legislation relating to USIA's au pair program.

Pursuant to notice, the Chair will lay the bill before the subcommittee and the clerk will designate the title of the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 2767, a bill to extend the United States Information Agency au pair program.

Mr. SMITH. The clerk will read the bill for amendment.

The CLERK. A bill to extend the au pair program—

Mr. SMITH. Without objection the bill is considered as having been read and is open for amendment at any point.

[The information appears in the Appendix.]

Mr. SMITH. I will make a few comments and then yield to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Mr. Ben Gilman, for any comments he might have and to any other members of the subcommittee.

As members know, the USIA au pair program has been an effective means of giving young people from overseas an educational year in the United States and also providing hard-working American families with many hours per week of high-quality child care.

The program operates without cost to taxpayers because the expenses of the au pair are covered by the host families.

The bill before us will extend this program for another 2 years. It will also open it up to participants from all over the world and will expand the range of agencies that can work with USIA to bring au pairs to the United States.

By enacting this authorization which has been introduced by Mr. Gilman as a freestanding bill, we can bring relief to families that were counting on the arrival of au pairs in their homes only to find that delayed by the refusal of the Senate to enact either a foreign operations bill or a foreign aid authorization bill, both of which carried riders reauthorizing the au pair program.

This bill reached us on an expedited schedule, but it should be uncontroversial.

I also want to note for the record that the very tireless work of Mr. Baker, Mr. Davis and Mr. Wolf have kept us on this committee very vigilant in trying to make sure that this legislation is enacted.

I would like to yield to Mr. Gilman.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank Chairman Smith for moving this bill expeditiously. It does extend the authorization for 2 years. The Senate passed the measure last evening. I think that the Senate extended it for a 4-year period rather than 2 years. We understand the USIA supports a 4-year extension.

They believe a longer period is essential to effectively evaluate compliance of the au pair organizations with the new program regulations. I think it is a sound program and I urge our colleagues to support the measure.

Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

Without objection, Mr. Lantos' statement will be made a part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lantos appears in the appendix.]

Mr. SMITH. Are there any amendments?

If there are no amendments and no further discussion, the Chair will be in receipt of a motion.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to move the subcommittee order the bill H.R. 2767, reported to the Committee on International Relations, with a recommendation that the bill do pass.

Mr. SMITH. The question is on the motion.

All those in favor say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it.

The bill is passed and the motion is agreed to.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

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104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 2767**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Smith, Mrs. Morella, Mr. Davis,

Mr. Baker (CA), Mr. Moran, & Mr. Wolf.

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, ~~and~~ Mr. HAMILTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To extend au pair programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AU PAIR PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) **REPEAL.**—Section 8 of the Eisenhower Exchange
5 Fellowship Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–454) is repealed.

6 (b) **AUTHORITY FOR AU PAIR PROGRAMS.**—The Di-
7 rector of the United States Information Agency is author-
8 ized to continue to administer an au pair program, operat-
9 ing on a world-wide basis, through fiscal year 1997.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 1996, the
2 Director of the United States Information Agency shall
3 submit a report regarding the continued extension of au
4 pair programs to the Committee on Foreign Relations of
5 the Senate and the Committee on International Relations
6 of the House of Representatives. This report shall specifi-
7 cally detail the compliance of all au pair organizations
8 with regulations governing au pair programs as published
9 on February 15, 1995.

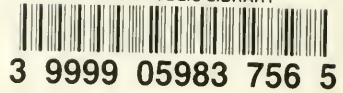
Statement of
Congressman Tom Lantos
Markup of H.R. 2767 — A Bill to Extend the Au Pair Program
Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights
Committee on International Relations
December 13, 1995

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to recognize the leadership which you have shown on the question of resolving the future of the Au Pair Program. I also want to acknowledge our full committee Chairman, Congressman Ben Gilman, and our the Ranking Democratic Member of the Committee, Congressman Lee Hamilton, who have also played a critical role in dealing with this issue.

The Au Pair Program has been in a state of uncertainty for a number of years, and it has been extended temporarily several times. Because authorization for the operation of this program expired on September 30 of this year and the legislation which we have adopted to extend it has not yet passed both houses of the Congress, it is important that we act to resolve, at least temporarily again, this uncertainty for a specified period of time.

Our legislation today simply extends the program for another two years — until September 30, 1997 — without resolving the question of its ultimate fate or ultimate future structure and existence. The legislation, however, does require a report from USIA, which should provide a basis for us to take more permanent action in two years.

I welcome the improvements that are made in this legislation. In the past the Au Pair program has been limited to young people from European countries. This legislation broadens the program to include other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This expansion will create additional problems for those who



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administer the program, but the extension of the program to all countries is a positive step, and I welcome it.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support international educational exchange programs, including this one for Au Pairs. As the founder of the California State Universities' Study Abroad program, I have long supported and encouraged efforts to have young women and men travel and learn about other countries, other languages, and other cultures. The Au Pair program provides an important opportunity for young people to experience American culture first-hand. These are young people who generally come from families which do not have the resources to permit them to travel independently or to study at an American university. It is important that they have this personal experience of our country.

It is extremely important, however, that the USIA and those who administer this program understand that this is an educational program — its purpose is to give young people experience with our country and its culture. Families who provide a home and food for foreign young people while they are here reasonably expect some assistance with household tasks. But this is not a program to circumvent our nation's labor and immigration laws relating to employment in the United States by foreign citizens. This is not a program to provide free child-care for upper-middle class Americans. It is not a program to get around our nation's labor laws. Those laws have been written for specific purposes, and the Au Pair Program must be consistent with our labor laws. It is extremely important that the international educational exchange component of this program be recognized and acknowledged as being central to this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.



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